daily Mail/Express trains which provide direct train service between Howrah and Gaya.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Railway Booking Office at Chatra, Bihar

3590. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a long standing demand for opening a railway booking office (out agencies) at district headquarter of Chatra (Bihar); and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) A proposal for opening a Railway Out Agency at Chatra, in Bihar was received.

(b) Traffic potential from Chatra does not justify opening of an Out Agency.

Booking Offices in Chhota Nagpur-Santhal Pargana Area

3591. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open railway booking offices in the district headquarters of Chhotanagpur-Santhal Pargana of Bihar which have not been linked with railway lines; and

(b) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Out agencies at Hazaribagh and Dumka were operated by Bihar State Road Transport Corporation (BSRTC). Unsatisfactory working and unwillingness of BSRTC to continue the work due to inadequate traffic led to the closure of these out agencies from 1.8.88 and 1.9.88, respectively. Reopening of Out Agencies at these locations can be considered if Government or private contractors are willing to take up the work on standard terms and conditions.

Rail Lines in Uttar Pradesh

3592. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the locations in Uttar Pradesh where new Railway lines are being laid or are to be laid during the Eighth Five Year Plan to connect rural and urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): Work for construction of new lines on the following sections has already been taken up:

(i) Mathura-Alwar

(ii) Rampur-New Haldwani (Kathgodam)

(iii) Bagaha-Chhitauni (Restoration)

(iv) Guna-Etawah

No proposal for the Eighth Plan has been finalised so far.

Conversion of Rail Lines in U.P.

3593. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: SHRI RAM BADAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh have submitted representations to the Union Government for converting the existing metre gauge lines into broad gauge and construction of new railway lines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh has recently requested for construction of a new line between Farrukhabad and Hardoi/Sandila to connect Mainpuri District.

(c) The proposed railway line which would also involve construction of a railway bridge across River Ganga would require heavy investment and cannot be considered for the present due to constraint of resources.